

Application No. 09/990,754

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-29 are pending.

Claims 30-37 are newly added.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-14, 16-22, and 24-28 stand rejected.

Claims 8, 9, 15, and 23 stand allowed.

Claims 18 and 29 stand objected to.

Examiner Interview

On May 5 and May 9, 2006, the Examiner and applicant's attorney discussed a possible claim amendment to Claim 1. No agreement was reached.

Claim Amendments; New Claims

Claims 6, 8, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 22, and 27 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 30-37 are newly added. No new matter is added.

Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found for example in FIGs. 2 and 4 and accompanying text as well as originally filed claims.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to Claims 18 and 29 for being dependent upon rejected base claims but indicated the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 18 is cancelled and the rejection of Claim 18 is moot. Claim 29 is amended in the manner

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provided herein to incorporate some limitations of its base Claim 10. Applicant requests that Examiner allow Claim 29.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 10 and 14 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 30 and 37 of copending application no. 09/990,916. Claims 24 and 28 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 43 of copending application no. 09/990,916. Claim 14 is cancelled and the rejection of that claim is moot. Claims 10, 24, and 28 are amended. Amended Claims 10 and 24 are allowable for reasons provided below. Claim 28 depends from Claim 24 and is allowable for at least the same reason as pertains to Claim 24. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw rejection of Claims 10, 24, and 28 based on non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19-22, and 24-28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of Timm et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,055,268) ("Timm") and Barlev et al. (Pub. No. U.S. 2005/0220180) ("Barlev").

Independent Claims 1, 10, 16, and 24 are amended to recite language similar to that recited in allowable Claim 8 and thus are allowable over the teachings of Timm and Barlev for at least similar reasons as pertain to Claim 8. Dependent claims rejected under 35 USC §103(a) depend from base Claim 1, 10, 16, or 24 and thus are

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allowable over the teachings of Timm for at least the same reasons as pertain to Claim 1, 10, 16, or 24.

New Claims

Claims 30-37 are newly added. Claims 30-37 depend from Claim 29 and thus are allowable for at least the same reason as pertains to Claim 29.

Final Remarks

The enclosed remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of all distinctions between any cited references and the claims. The distinctions identified and discussed are to illustrate at least one difference between the claims and the cited reference.

Accordingly, because all pending claims are allowable (namely, Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 16, 19, 21, and 23-26, and 28-37), applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, please call the applicants' attorney, Glen Choi, at (212) 661-5488.

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If there are any charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION
(37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on May 16, 2006.

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